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HAWAII

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**November 13, 2007**

**Second Annual Transit Symposium  
Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall  
Honolulu, Hawaii**

**Dear Mayor Hannemann:**

Thank you for inviting me to participate in the City and County of Honolulu's Second Annual Transit Symposium. Unfortunately, my legislative duties in Washington, D.C. prevent me from attending personally. Please accept my best wishes for a most successful gathering.

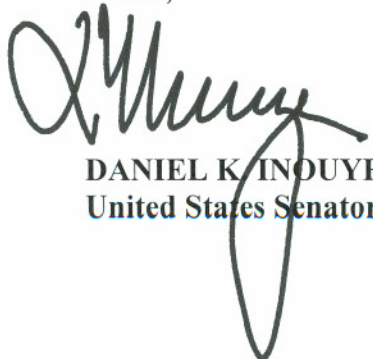
Hawaii's transportation needs have always been among my highest priorities during my tenure in the U.S. Senate. Our isolation and limited land area have presented unique challenges involving surface, maritime, and aviation transportation.

As demands on Oahu's limited transportation infrastructure continue to increase, along with our growing population, the City must be proactive in addressing the current and future needs of our residents. The sharing of knowledge and experiences by transportation experts from across North America will be invaluable, and will help determine the best solutions for Honolulu.

After much deliberation, the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project has been identified as a solution to Oahu's transportation needs. Approximately 60% of the island's population reside in West Oahu, a target area which will be served by this project. I am pleased that both Houses of Congress have favorably supported Honolulu's transit project by appropriating planning and design funds -- \$10 million in the House and \$20 million in the Senate. The difference in the amounts will be resolved in conference.

I commend all of you for your participation today and for your contribution toward the development of a transit system for Honolulu. This has indeed been a long time in coming. I hope the old adage holds true that "the third time's the charm." Good luck and Godspeed.

Aloha,



DANIEL K. INOUE  
United States Senator